

Dear Commissioners:

As an American citizen deeply concerned about the health of our democratic republic, I am appalled that you could even consider further deregulating broadcast ownership. As it is, here in Los Angeles, Clear Channel Radio, for instance, owns eight major radio stations! How could this kind of monopolization of the airwaves, where eight potentially different points of view become one, possibly be serving the public interest? Given Clear Channel's close personal ties to the Bush administration it would seem to be a clear conflict of interest, especially with a presidential election beginning only months away. To further deregulate a corporation like Clear Channel could potentially make the current abhorrent situation even worse. I was under the impression that your regulating body was in place to protect the public interest, and in doing so, protect the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution. But further deregulation could lead to heinous acts of manipulation by the media mega-corporations in this country. Freedom of speech cannot continue to exist in our nation without different voices and points of view having equal and fair access to the airwaves. Your vote on June 2, 2003 will directly impact the health of our democracy. I hope you will vote to defeat the attempts of the major broadcasting conglomerates to further deregulate broadcast ownership. I hope also, that you will study and review the effects of media consolidation as it exists today, and if necessary, take steps to reverse the damage that deregulation has already had on our ailing democracy. Clearly, less independent voices on the radio runs counter to the healthy debate that keeps a democracy alive. Please do the right thing for the good citizens of this country and vote against further deregulation of broadcast ownership on June 2.

Thank you,
Ivor Francis